MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know, at what stage of the company's working are you going to make enquires about this matter?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: It is only the construction of the factory that is now going on. Before the factory actually commences work, we will certainly take note of this stipulation and scrutinise how far it has been carried into effect.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know, what is the amount stipulated for the construction of a factory?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: I cannot say that at present.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: May I know what will be the fate of the present employees?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Again this is a matter for the Government to consider in due course.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know whether the Government enquired about the company's annual disbursement of expenditure on pay?

PRESIDENT: We cannot ask that. How can it be done? As a matter of fact the plant has to come from America. The question was raised as to whether England would give the plant or America, which would be suitable to us. This Government, after consultation with the Government of India and after a certain amount of difference of opinion that arose between this Government and the Government of India finally decided to place the order for the plant in America. These are very technical plants. Those accustomed to deal with the plant will have to work it. At the present moment certain preliminaries are given to us. Now constructions are going on and as soon as we know the quantity of materials that will be needed for the programme of work, then the question of employees will come in. Whether it is necessary to employ 3/4 Travancoreans, or 7/8th or 1/2, all these will have to be considered then.

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: Will the honourable member take it from me that if he will only call for a list of appointments in the Fertilisers, he will be able to find that 75 per cent. of the employees are non-Travancoreans?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Sir, the matter will be looked into.

Appointments in the Fertilisers and Chemicals, Ltd.

12. *MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the number of appointments made from each community with a salary of Rs. 30 and above in the Fertilisers and Chemicals, Ltd., Alwaye; and

(b) the number of Travancoreans and non-Travancoreans amongst them?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: (a) and (b) Information is not available as the Fertilisers and Chemicals, Travancore Ltd., is a registered company and not a Government concern.

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Purchase of food grains for Travancore.

13. *MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the amount Travancore Government has to pay per ton to the Agents of the "Supply Administration" for making purchases of food grains for Travancore; and

(b) whether the prices at which food grains are purchased for Travancore by these agents of the "Supply Administration" are being fixed by these foreign agents themselves or by the "Supply Administrations" or by Government of India or by Travancore Government?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Food Supplies*): (a) This Government have not to pay anything to the agents of the Supplying Administration for making purchases of food grains for Travancore.

(b) The prices of food grains to be purchased for Travancore are fixed by the Supplying Administrations.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Am I to take it that the Travancore Government have no other course but to follow the dictates of the "Supply Administration"?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Will you pay the price and take the grains at the price stipulated or will you not, will be the only proposition. To purchase it is the only alternative before us.

Agencies outside Travancore for purchasing food grains.

14. *MR. P. S. MOHAMED (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state

(a) the different agencies employed outside Travancore for purchasing food grains;

(b) on what arrangement the agencies have been working for the State;

(c) the nature and method of the working of these agencies in the places in which they were employed: and

(d) the names of the places where agencies were employed and the name of the agent in each of the places?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (a) The agencies for purchasing food grains outside Travancore are employed by the respective Supplying Administrations under instructions from the Government of India.

(b), (c) and (d) In view of the answer to (a) above, these questions do not arise.

Remuneration paid by Government to Messrs Volkart Bros., for the purchase of food grains.

15. *MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of commission per ton or the remuneration (in detail) paid by Government to Messrs. Volkart Bros., for the purchase of food grains from "area except Madras and Central Provinces" till November 1943; and

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[Mr. P. S. Nataraja Pillai]

(*b*) the agency that was employed till November 1943 for the purchase of food grains in Central Provinces and Madras and the rate of remuneration paid for them?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) The remuneration paid by Government to Messrs. Volkart Brothers on the purchases of food grains from areas other than Madras and Central Provinces is given below:—

Sind ... Inspection fee of one anna per bag.

Punjab Province and Bahawalpur.

		Per bag. Rs.	as.	p.
1. Inspection at source and at Karachi ($1\frac{1}{2}+1$)	...	0	2	6
2. Handling commission	...	0	1	0
Total	...	0	3	6

Baluchistan, Kashmir, Punjab States etc.

Overall charges at 1½ per cent. on the cost of goods at Karachi.

(*b*) Purchases were made by the respective Governments. This Government have not paid any remuneration to them.

Commandeering of Valloms.

16. *MR. K. A. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have laid down any rules for the commandeering of valloms;

(*b*) whether there are shortages found in these valloms which are escorted by the Police; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that when vallom owners apply for the release of their valloms for repairs they are asked to compensate for the shortage found in their valloms as a condition for release?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) Certain principles are generally observed in the commandeering of valloms, *e. g.* valloms below 8 tons are not commandeered at all.

(*b*) Yes; at times.

(*c*) Owners of valloms as such are not asked to pay up the value of shortages.

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: May I know whether the principle of vicarious liability has been imported in the matter of the commandeering of valloms?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, the question is not clear.

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: The question is whether it is a fact that when vallom owners apply for the release of their valloms for repairs they are asked to compensate for the shortage found in their valloms as a condition for release and the answer is that there are shortages found in these valloms at times and that the owners of valloms as such are not asked to pay up the value of shortages. May I know under what circumstances, are the owners asked to compensate for the shortage?

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